<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT</u>

In the specification, page 1, line 4, please insert the following heading:

<u>BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION</u>

In the specification, page 1, line 5, please amend the sub-heading as follows:

<u>1. ~~Technical~~ Field of Invention</u>

In the specification, page 1, line 9, please amend the sub-heading as follows:

<u>2. ~~Background~~ Description of the Related Art</u>

In the specification, page 4, line 21, please amend the sub-heading as follows:

<u>~~Disclosure~~ Brief Summary of the Invention</u>

In the specification, page 6, lines 1-25, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The above aim of the present invention can be achieved by a storage-medium rental

system for temporarily providing, from a rental agent to a user, a right to use digital work stored

in a portable storage medium, where a portable semiconductor memory is connected to a rental-

shop apparatus when the rental agent rents the user the storage medium, and the storage medium

and the semiconductor memory are connected to a playback apparatus when the user plays back

the digital work<u>.</u>~~, the~~ <u>The</u> storage-medium rental system ~~including~~ <u>includes</u>: the storage medium

that prestores digital content data representing the digital work; the semiconductor memory that

has an area for securely storing information; the rental-shop apparatus that securely writes right

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information into the area of the semiconductor memory when the rental agent rents the user the

storage medium, the right information showing a range of the right to use the digital work stored

in the storage medium; the playback apparatus that, upon receipt of an instruction from the user

to play back the digital work, (a) securely reads the right information from the area of the

semiconductor memory, (b) judges whether the digital work is allowed to be used or not, based

on the read right information, and (c) only when judging that the digital work is allowed to be

used, reads the digital content data from the storage medium and plays back the digital work

based on the read digital content data.

In the specification, page 22, line 7, please amend the sub-heading as follows:

~~Best Mode for Carrying Out~~ Detailed Description of the Invention

In the specification, page 45, line 22-25 to page 46, lines 1-7, please amend the paragraph as
follows:

When judging that the present date and time is before the rental end date or is on the

rental end date (step S155), the control unit 203 sends a request to read an encrypted title key

from the DVD 30, to the DVD player 40 via the IF unit 205. The control unit 404 receives the

request via the IF unit 407 (step S171). Then, the control unit 404 reads the encrypted title key

from the DVD 30 (step S161), and outputs the read encrypted title key to the IC card 20 via the

IF unit 407. The control unit 203 receives the encrypted title key via the IF unit 205, and outputs

the encrypted title key to the decryption unit 202 (step S162).

In the specification, page 73, line 8, please amend the sub-heading as follows:

~~Industrial Application~~